

THE PLOTTER

**CLACKAMAS COMPUTER APPLIED
TRAINING SOCIETY
NEWS LETTER**

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COMPUTER
APPLIED
TRAINING
SOCIETY**

THE PLOTTER

COMPUTING THE FUTURE-- IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

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MEETING

The NOVEMBER meeting will be:

on: FRI., NOVEMBER 13 1992

MEETING open at: 7:00 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
FAR WEST FEDERAL BANK
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

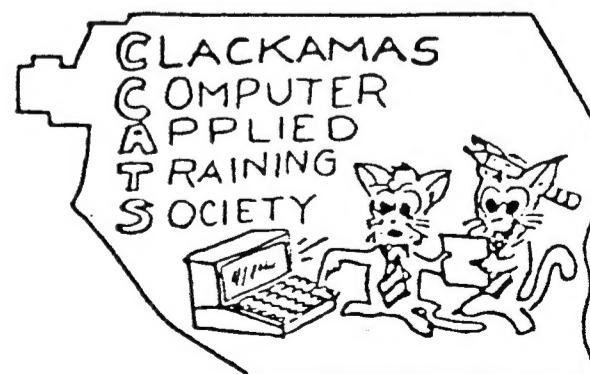
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Our October meeting was a work session devoted to assembling columns of text and programs in proper order for cutting and pasting for our new publication. A work force of 7 members showed up on Saturday afternoon at our usual meeting room. All of the available material was processed and some pages assembled.

Three members have been busy copying selected articles and programs, saving with LKDOS and then Rod Gowen has been printing the material in column format of 32 characters wide. He is using a word processing program with MSDOS to obtain the proper type and printing capability. About half of the material has been processed to the paste up stage.

Why not use a desk top publisher? You can't without all of the material at hand and printed out for editing. This is the same reason I do not use a desk top publishing program for printing the newsletter. For instance, here I am at cut and paste doing this article which



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starts on the front page. It is the first article to go on the pre-printed front page. This month the 2068 program, "BOOKWORM" should also be of interest to TS1000 users by simply changing the graphics to TS1000 format. Be sure and use a 1/2 wide graphic and position them in a PRINT line so there are 5 columns 3 graphic characters high. The part about the bookworm working its way through the books will require deleting.

The Editor has tried adapting a TRS 80 program to GWBASIC. It was hoped to have it ready for this issue but no luck. There seems to be something wrong with one line as the program, running with TRON, always stops at the same line. Do the readers recall the program tracer that Syd Wyncoop developed? TRON is similar.

For GWBASIC users, TRS 80 is similar but uses some different command names. A few examples--PRINT@ is the same as LOCATE except that PRINT@ is identified with a one number print position, 0 to 1023. This is quite unhandy to use because one needs a screen chart to determine locations. The screen used with the old TRS 80 computers is low definition for graphics but not too bad for text, there being 16 lines of 64 character length. MSDOS's GWBASIC uses LOCATE (row, column) of either 40 or 80 character columns and 24 or 25 rows. LOCATE is more like Sinclair's PRINT AT.

With a graphics screen, TRS 80 uses the command SET(x,y) which works in the pixel mode. Like PLOT x,y in Sinclair Basic, 0,0 is bottom left on the screen. In comparison PSET(x,y) pertains to pixels but the 0,0 reference point remains at the top left corner. The TRS 80 pixel is more like the TS1000 pixel in that it is not a screen dot. Actually it is 1/2 a character wide and 1/3 of a character high. This makes it 1/6 of a character in size.

I have developed a couple of short programs in GWBASIC to assist in handling these differences in screen printing. One of these times I will work them into a newsletter article.

BITS & BYTES

by: Rod Gowen

In this column I try to bring you the latest and complete information and news available to me regarding the world of TS computing. One way that I can accomplish this is if I have the support of you, the reader, in collecting news that may be of interest to other readers. If you have any news, rumors or other tidbits of information that fits this description, why not send it along? We will be watching!

FAST "BREAK" 2068--

I have had a couple of friends come to me recently asking how to "break" into the basic of a program on the 2068 that they could not break by simply pressing the BREAK key. To tell you the truth, I found it very difficult to believe that I was the only one to know that you can break just about any program's basic by simply pressing BOTH the BREAK and the SHIFT keys at the same time! Try it! I'm not saying that it will work 100% of the time, but it will do better than BREAK alone.

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?-----

When you take the time to write to a supposed supplier or supporter, expecting a reply of some sort which NEVER arrives? I have, and so, it seems, have a lot of my fellow TSers. It seems as though more and more I am hearing from customers and fellow users who have written to a supplier or supporter or group only to wait for a reply that will never arrive. If this has happened to you, I would be interested in knowing about it. I have some contacts with most of the supporters and groups and can perhaps get some of them off of their respective duffs to reply to your inquiries. No promises, but have done so for others in the past. (See my article elsewhere in this issue.)

WE WANT SUBMISSIONS! -----

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Even after my piece on submissions and the fact that we would accept them in almost any format last month, we have still not received ANYTHING from our readers and fellow TS users. I see other newsletters doing a bit better in this department and would expect that we would, with over 40 copies going out each month, that we would have at least 1 or 2 besides myself and Dick who are up to the seemingly unattainable goal of writing down a few lines for our faithful editor to publish. Anything will do: a review of your favorite program or piece of hardware, an article describing how you use your computer for a certain job or in general or any subject or topic related to computers will be appreciated and used. BE WARNED! IT TAKES MORE THAN 1 OR 2 WRITERS TO KEEP A NEWSLETTER ALIVE!

NEW USERS-WELCOME!-----

We seem to be hearing from more and more folks who are new to TS computers lately. Some are second generation users who have inherited a computer from an older member of the family while others have never been around a TS computer before they picked one up at a garage sale or a swap meet. We welcome one and all! We are here to assist you in any way we can. If you know of someone in this category, please pass along our name and address and maybe even a copy of this newsletter. We would be glad to hear from them and would surely have someone here who could answer just about any question regarding a TS problem, and, if not, we can steer you onto someone who can! Let's help the new users!

RMG HAD PHONE PROBLEMS IN OCT!!-

If any of you tried to phone RMG during the week of Oct 20-26, we did not go on vacation or close up shop! Two of our 3 phone lines went out on the same day and stayed out for 5 days! Not too good for business! We just wanted you to know that we are

still here and going strong. Our FAX line was up the whole time so we were able to use it for local voice calls. We really do not realize just how much we rely on those phone lines until they are not there--sort of like our TS suppliers, huh?

THE BEST OF THE PLOTTER--

Our October meeting was held on a Saturday so that we could get started pasting up the book and we had a better turn-out than we do for regular meetings! Does this mean that, if we were to start meeting on Saturdays, we would always have a good turn-out? Or, is it just a one-time affair? If you would rather have our monthly meetings on Saturday afternoon, speak up! It may be that the majority would prefer it! Seems that a lot of working folks would find it less hectic than rushing home from work on Friday nite and rushing to our monthly meeting. Let's talk about it at the November meeting.

We also will try to have a second meeting in November. How about on the 28th of November, Saturday afternoon again? We can meet at the community room of the mobile home park where Bob Evans lives. We will have our regular meeting on Friday, the 13th.

That's it for now!

See you next time. . .

BOOKWORM

Dick Wagner

This program was developed from a question presented in the Sunday Oregonian (Portland newspaper) of October 25 by Marilyn in her weekly column of many oddities and head scratchers.

The first display of text is the whole definition and question. This was all there was to work with except the answer was given. My program provides for input from the player. If it is not the correct answer additional answers may be given. If the answer is correct the

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player is so notified plus the books are displayed on the shelf with the bookworm making its way through the books according to the details given at the beginning.

If the reader desires this to be a self starting program then the SAVE command should end with LINE 50. Put in your own SAVE command based on your storage medium. I named the program "BOOKWORM" because Oliger DOS with accept ten characters in the name.

The DATA defines graphic characters (CAPSHIFT + 9 key) for keys "A", "B", and "C". When RUN is pressed, these keys will change to the graphic characters.

```
40 REM BOOKWORM PROGRAM
45 REM DICK WAGNER
50 PRINT AT 0,0;"There is a set of 5 books on a shelf. Each book has 100 pages. A bookworm starts eating on the first page of the first book."
60 PRINT "From there the bookworm eats in a straight line through to the last page of the last book."
70 PRINT "Through how many pages did the bookworm eat?": INPUT p: PRINT : PRINT p: PAUSE 50: PRINT AT 10,0; "
80 IF P<>302 THEN GO TO 50: IF P=302 THEN GO TO 90
90 CLS : PRINT AT 12,0;"CORRECT, 302 PAGES. HERE IS THE BOOKWORM AT WORK"
120 FOR n=65368 TO 65368+23
130 READ d: POKE n,d: NEXT n
140 DATA 130,254,254,254,254,254,254,254,254
150 DATA 254,254,254,254,254,254,254,254,254
160 DATA 254,254,254,254,254,254,254,254,254
170 PRINT AT 5,5;"A";"A";"A";"A";"A"
180 PRINT AT 6,5;"B";"B";"B";"B";"B"
190 PRINT AT 7,5;"C";"C";"C";"C";"C"
230 PLOT 0,108: DRAW 100,0
240 PLOT 0,140: DRAW 100,0
250 PLOT 0,139: DRAW 100,0
260 PLOT 0,138: DRAW 100,0
```

```
270 PRINT AT 0,0;"Top view of 5 books"
280 PRINT " on book shelf."
310 FOR X=45 TO (45+27)
320 PLOT 45,124: DRAW INVERSE 1
; (X-45),0
325 PAUSE 50
330 NEXT X
```

IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE

by: Rod Gowen

Have you written to a supposed TS dealer lately? Or maybe to one of the supposed "active" user groups? Have you waited and waited and then waited a little longer, only to either eventually forget why you wrote or even that you wrote at all? Has this frustrated you? Naturally! I have had the same experience over the past 10 years or so. It seems, however, that I am receiving more and more complaints of this happening to more and more of our TS users, both long-time and new ones alike. You can imagine the frustration of a new user in a case like this. It may be enough to drive them to another computer right off! We do not want that to happen!

I confess, over the past 10 years or so, I have had a couple of letters come my way that actually got lost for a time and showed up later, as well as some that I just plain forgot to reply to for awhile. However, I have answered even these letters and apologized for my delay, whether my fault or not! If you are a dealer or a user group, pay heed! We cannot afford to alienate even 1 TS user at this stage! We need them all!

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If you are a part-time TS dealer, take a couple of minutes to reply to each letter AS THEY ARRIVE! It will save you both time and aggravation later. I know! I've been there!

If you are receiving this newsletter for your user group, either take it upon yourself to reply to all letters received or turn them over to your corresponding secretary or other person in charge of this job AT ONCE! If your group does not have such a person, WHY NOT? Get a volunteer to take it on! If you cannot or will not be able to answer letters, then DO NOT GIVE YOUR ADDRESS AS THE CLUB ADDRESS! If you or your group does not want to "trouble" yourselves with replying to those "silly" questions, THEN SAY SO IN YOUR NEWSLETTER! By the way, there is no such thing as a "silly" question in regard to computers, only silly people who think they can do it alone. We have all needed and will continue to need help as long as we work with these "infernal machines".

If, for some reason, the question put forth in someone's letter cannot be answered by anyone in your group or company, then it is up to you to put the question to someone who can answer it! Perhaps, as some groups do, you can reprint the letter in your newsletter. Perhaps you can forward it to someone you know who can answer it. In any case, If someone needs an answer, and trusted that we would be able to help with the problem, then we owe to that person to give it our best try!

I get questions all the time and there are quite a few that I am unable to resolve. I always try to refer the question to someone that I believe can supply an answer. I hope that you don't mind. If I am totally unable to either come up with an answer or refer the question to someone else, then I reply saying so!

Think about it! Why did we form user groups? Why did some of us go into business to support TS users? If, as a dealer, you are in it strictly for the money, then you are already in big trouble! None of us has made any fortunes selling or supplying TS hardware and software. As for why we formed user groups, the ONLY VALID reason is to support hand HELP fellow users! I know that our group was founded on this premise and we continue to honor it. We have opened up our group to ANY computer user and we have users who can be of help to TS users, Amiga users, CO-CO users and IBM clone users at this time.

Who have you helped lately?



the plotter

pc page

by: Rod Gowen

Have you joined the so-called "FAX REVOLUTION"? Did you know that the FAX technology has been in use for over 30 years? It is only lately, however, that the cost has come down to put it within reach of most of us. Did you know that the FAX is the fastest growing office machine in the world? Not only for business, but for home use as well.

Have you been pricing a regular FAX machine? Perhaps a FAX PHONE? A fairly good one will still run you more than \$500. You can get a FAX machine that uses special paper for around \$300-400. A "plain paper" FAX that can also be used as a copier will be well over the \$500 mark. Do you want to spend that much? If not, I may have an alternative for you!

Are you using an IBM clone? Have you, as a lot of us have, upgraded to a faster machine, such as a 386 or a 486? Do you have an older XT that you cannot hope to get much out of by selling? You would be wise to perhaps think of converting it to a full featured FAX machine. For less than \$100 you can get a FAX or FAX/modem card and be ready to send or receive a FAX in less than 1/2 hour. It takes about 15 minutes to install the card and another 15 minutes to install and configure the software. Features vary with the brand of board that you buy and which software package you end up using.

There are, of course, advantages and disadvantages to each of the choices. With the regular FAX machine you have to put up with the paper printout every time a FAX is received. There may be times when you do not want a hard copy. With the computer FAX card, the incoming FAXes are stored as files on the disk. They can be viewed, printed or deleted as you wish. You can even forward it to someone else much more simply than with a FAX machine. The major disadvantage of the FAX card is, that, unless you invest in a full-page scanner, you cannot send something that is on paper out as a FAX. However, if most of your FAXing involves things that you are creating on your computer, then this will not be a problem. If, however, you will be wanting to send a lot of material that comes from sources

other than the computer, the FAX machine may be a better choice.

That is one obvious plus of the FAX machine. Another advantage to some FAX machines, especially the "plain paper" versions, is that you can use it as a copy machine. This "dual duty" may make it a better choice if you would like to have a copier as well as a FAX machine.

I am not going to say one of the options is better for you than the other. Only YOU can decide what you want to use. Only you can decide how you want to use it. I am only offering up the options that you do have and give you an approximate cost. The cost can range, as I said earlier, from about \$300 for a computer with a FAX or FAX/modem card to well over \$1000 for the top-of-the-line, full featured, dual duty, plain paper FAX/Copier with built in telephone. The \$300 price is about what you might pay for a used PC XT with mono monitor and a new FAX/modem card.

I have been using a FAX card for several years. I have made the investment in a full-page scanner to allow me to FAX paper items. I do, however, use the scanner for more than just FAXes, so it was not a major investment for FAX use alone.

If you have any questions regarding this column, feel free to write. The address on the back of this newsletter. I will do my best to advise.

-NOTICE-

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas Computer Applied Training Society. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meeting. This newsletter nor staff will not be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

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